

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 16, 19 and 21 as follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A network system, comprising:
2 at least one network unit having a variable Internet protocol (IP) address and unique
3 identification information;
4 a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server responsive to a request from
5 said at least one network unit for assigning said variable IP address to said at least one
6 network unit for a predetermined period of time; and
7 an agent server including a communication unit for receiving said unique
8 identification information and said variable IP address from said at least one network unit,
9 [[and]] for transferring said unique identification information and said variable IP address,
10 and for receiving from a user unique identification information of a network unit selected by
11 the user, a database connected to said communication unit for receiving and storing said
12 variable IP address and said unique identification information transferred from said
13 communication unit, and a control unit connected to said communication unit and to said
14 database for receiving from the user via said communication unit said unique identification
15 information of said network unit selected by the user, for searching said database for said
16 variable IP address of said at least one network unit on the basis of the unique identification
17 information received from the user, and for enabling the user to gain access to said selected

18 network unit in accordance with results of the searching of said database;

19 wherein said unique identification information includes at least one of an Ethernet
20 address of said at least one network unit and a search keyword for said variable IP address
21 of said at least one network unit.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Currently Amended) The network system as set forth in Claim [[3]] 1, wherein
2 said control unit receives said at least one of said Ethernet address, ~~said identifier~~ of said at
3 least one network unit[[,]] and said search keyword for said variable IP address of said at
4 least one network unit from the user over said network and via said communication unit,
5 compares said at least one of said Ethernet address, ~~said identifier~~ of said at least one
6 network unit[[,]] and said search keyword for said variable IP address of said at least one
7 network unit with data stored in said database to produce a match, and searches for said
8 variable IP address when the match is produced.

1 5. (Original) The network system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said data stored in
2 said database is updated at regular time intervals.

3 Claim 6. (Canceled)

1 7. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a network system having a
2 dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server, an agent server, and at least one
3 network unit, said method comprising the steps of:

4 (a) requesting a variable Internet protocol (IP) address for said at least one network
5 unit from [[asid]] said DHCP server when said at least one network unit powers up;

6 (b) transmitting the requested variable IP address from said DHCP server to said at
7 least one network unit;

8 (c) storing unique identification information and the variable IP address of said at
9 least one network unit in a database in said agent server;

10 (d) receiving data at said agent server from a user over a network, comparing said
11 received data with said unique identification information stored in said database, and
12 searching for said variable IP address of said at least one network unit when said comparing
13 produces a match; and

14 (e) connecting the user to said at least one network unit having the searched variable
15 IP address;

16 said method further comprising the steps, between steps (b) and (c), of receiving said
17 unique identification information and said variable IP address of said at least one network
18 unit at said agent server, and transferring said unique identification information and said
19 variable IP address of said at least one network unit to said database in said agent server;

20 wherein said unique identification information includes at least one of an Ethernet
21 address of said at least one network unit and a search keyword for said variable IP address

22 of said at least one network unit.

Claims 8-9. (Canceled)

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim [[9]] 7, wherein said data
2 received in step (d) comprises at least one of said Ethernet address, ~~said identifier of said at~~
3 least one network unit and said search keyword for said variable IP address of said at least
4 one network unit.

1 11. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein data stored in said
2 database is updated at regular time intervals.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim [[9]] 7, wherein data
2 stored in said database is updated at regular time intervals.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A network system comprising a dynamic host
2 configuration protocol (DHCP) server, an agent server, and at least one network unit having
3 a variable Internet protocol (IP) address assigned to said at least one network unit by said
4 DHCP server, and unique identification information, said agent server comprising:

5 a communication unit for receiving, from each said at least one network unit, said
6 variable IP address assigned to said at least one network unit by said DHCP server and said

7 unique identification for each said at least one network unit, and for receiving from a user
8 unique identification information for a network unit selected by the user;

9 storing means connected to said communication unit for receiving and storing said
10 variable IP address and said unique identification information for each said at least one
11 network unit; and

12 a control unit connected to said communication unit and to said storing means for
13 receiving the unique identification information for the network unit selected by the user, and
14 for searching said storing means for said variable IP address of said selected network unit
15 on the basis of the unique identification information received from the user, and responsive
16 to results produced by said searching for enabling the user to gain access to said selected
17 network unit;

18 wherein said storing means comprises a database, said communication unit
19 transferring said received unique identification information and said variable IP address to
20 said database; and

21 wherein said unique identification information includes at least one of an Ethernet
22 address of said at least one network unit and a search keyword for said variable IP address
23 of said at least one network unit.

Claims 14-15. (Canceled)

1 16. (Currently Amended) The network system as set forth in Claim [[15]] 13,

2 wherein said control unit receives, from the user, at least one of an Ethernet address,~~an~~
3 ~~identifier~~ and a search keyword corresponding to the network unit selected by the user.

Claims 17-18. (Canceled)

1 19. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a network system having a
2 dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server, an agent server, and at least one
3 network unit, said method comprising the steps of:

4 (a) requesting a variable Internet protocol (IP) address for said at least one network
5 unit from ~~[[asid]]~~ said DHCP server when said at least one network unit powers up;

6 (b) transmitting the requested variable IP address from said DHCP server to said at
7 least one network unit;

8 (c) storing unique identification information and the variable IP address of each said
9 at least one network unit in a database in said agent server;

10 (d) receiving at said agent server, from a user, unique identification information
11 corresponding to a network unit selected by the user;

12 (e) comparing said unique identification information received from the user with said
13 unique identification information stored in said database;

14 (f) determining said variable IP address of said network unit selected by the user when
15 step (e) produces a match; and

16 (g) connecting the user to said selected network unit having the determined variable

17 IP address;
18 wherein said unique identification information includes at least one of an Ethernet
19 address of said at least one network unit and a search keyword for said variable IP address
20 of said at least one network unit.

Claim 20. (Canceled)

1 21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim [[20]] 19, wherein the
2 unique identification information received from the user in step (d) comprises at least one
3 of [[said]] an Ethernet address, ~~said identifier~~ and [[said]] a search keyword corresponding
4 to the network unit selected by the user.

1 22. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said data stored in said
2 database is updated at regular time intervals.

Claims 23-24. (Canceled)